

# THE NOXIOUS NEWS

## Native Plant Appreciation Week

*Native Plant Appreciation Week* is May 24<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>; this week is intended to encourage citizens to become involved in learning more about native plant species and their habitats and how they can help to protect them. The week will kick off with plant walks, discussions, and visits to some of our natural areas. The event organizers hope to reach a greater community of concerned citizens.

This week will be an opportunity for governmental agencies, non-profit groups and environmental organizations to highlight their work in protecting native plant species and restoring native plant habitats. It is also an opportunity to increase public understanding of how critical our native plant ecosystems are.

This week will be an opportunity to highlight the threat invasive exotic pests pose to our native plants and ecosystems and the work being done in both the public and private sector to combat that threat. This should also be a time to highlight the good work of the county weed control programs.



Middle Lakes photograph by Walter Lockwood. Copyright 2004. All rights reserved.

*Native Plant Appreciation Week*, gives us an opportunity to celebrate our native floral abundance, our amazing bio-diversity, and all the good work being done to protect and preserve it. Please contact your local Native plant society to collaborate on programs for the week. Check out the web site for events in your area and feel free to add some of your own [http://www.wnps.org/plant\\_week/activities.htm](http://www.wnps.org/plant_week/activities.htm).

The kick off will be held at the Coach House at the Capital Museum, from 10:00 a.m. until noon May 24th. It will be a chance to celebrate and share the work being done with each other and the press in an informal setting.

If you have a small display that shows some of the work you are doing to support native plants and ecosystems, that would be very helpful. We will be sure the building is open at least an hour ahead for set up.

## ***Celebrating Wildflowers Saturday, June 5th***

A nationwide program, "Celebrating Wildflowers" seeks to celebrate and educate the public about the importance of our native plants. A collaboration of the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and the National Park Service, Celebrating Wildflowers seeks to promote conservation and management of native plants and habitats emphasizing the aesthetic, recreational, biological, medicinal and economic values of wildflowers.

In 1991 the "Celebrating Wildflowers" Program was initiated in the Pacific Northwest. Washington Rare Plant Care and Conservation (Rare Care) assumed leadership in 2002 to coordinate the wildflower event held at Woodland Park Zoo.

Mark Saturday, June 5 on your calendars! From 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Zoo's Butterfly Forest, just east of the Butterflies and Blooms exhibit, children and adults will have the opportunity to learn about the many roles that native plants play in sustaining our planet's ecosystems. Favorite children's activities include "be a pollinator" and "moss petting." Partners at this year's event include the King County Noxious Weed Control Program, The Nature Conservancy, Washington Native Plant Society, Cascade Land Conservancy, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and the Washington Park Arboretum.



**Pollinating flowers**

Volunteers are needed for the event for morning and afternoon shifts. Volunteers will have admission to Woodland Park Zoo and will co-run pre-planned children's activities. Contact Rare Care Program Manager Carolyn Alfano at 206-616-0780 or [rarecare@u.washington.edu](mailto:rarecare@u.washington.edu).

## **State Weed Board to Evaluate Cost of Media Campaign**

By Dana Coggon

The state weed board is looking forward in our program to propose a media campaign similar to the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign. Dana has met with two local TV stations in the Seattle area and has contacted TV and radio stations from around the state. Recently the state put together a proposal to secure funding for the program and defined the need for a focus on noxious weeds in the mass media.

So what would the campaign do? The goal of this campaign is to inform millions of Washington citizens of their responsibility to report noxious weeds to local boards. This program is also geared to encourage citizens to help prevent the spread of invasive weeds by contacting their local or state weed control entities for information on controlling noxious weeds.

The state would produce multiple advertisements for TV, radio and other news media on the impacts of noxious weeds and the importance of individuals taking responsibility for their land. The program coordinator would work closely with the education specialist to then produce written documents to accompany the information provided in the advertisements.

What are the final implications of this program? The hope is that all citizens in WA will realize the importance of weed control and the importance of the local weed control entities.

For more information on this program please contact Dana Coggon at 360-902-2082 or via email [dcoggon@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dcoggon@agr.wa.gov).

### **“SUCCESS STORIES” SOLICITED**

For Next Biennial Report

In the second half of this calendar year, the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board will prepare a “Biennial Report” detailing the work of the state’s noxious weed control system over the previous two-year period. The report goes to the Governor and every member of the State Legislature, in addition to others.

The last report featured, for the first time, a series “Success Stories,” promoted right on the cover.

These nine short stories described such things as the eradication of kudzu in Clark County and a dramatic decrease in tansy ragwort in Whatcom County. Partnerships were featured in articles about the Saltcedar Taskforce and the biocontrol work of four northeastern counties and the Colville Tribe.

Success stories are considered highly desirable in the report, since they illustrate the positive results that can be achieved with the right combinations of vigilance, persistence, expertise, funding and teamwork.

Success stories are not limited to eradications or dramatic results. They can describe an early detection, an effective collaboration or an innovative treatment technique. While published by the State Weed Board, the Biennial Report covers the work of county weed boards, weed districts, state agencies and everyone working toward noxious weed control within Washington State.

Anyone with a lead or idea for a success story is encouraged to contact Steve McGonigal at (360) 902-2053 or [smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov](mailto:smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov)



## IN BRIEF

**Proposed weeds for 2005.** We are getting ready to review the state weed list and we need your help. We are looking for candidates to be added to the weed list and also looking for suggestions of changes to the list and the listing process. A plant being looked at for addition this year this Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*). Please contact Steve ([Smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov](mailto:Smcgonigal@agr.wa.gov)) with your suggestions for changes to our current list.

**Fair season is coming up.** Make sure to get your requests for displays into Shari as soon as you can. If you need a copy of the display request form or have any other questions please contact Shari at (360)902-1901.

**Field season is well on its way this year.** Please keep in mind that the state would love copies of any good images of weed infestations around the state. Dana is working on cataloging most of the states images but would appreciate any new images you might take this year.

**Weed ID seminars** to be held this month May 25 & 26th. Check the web and fill out the sign up sheet so Dana has an idea of how many people will be there and what plants people are bringing. Contact Dana if you have any questions [dcoggon@agr.wa.gov](mailto:dcoggon@agr.wa.gov)

**Chairman Issues Challenge On Class "A" Weeds.** Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Chairman Ray Fann re-issued a challenge he has made before, during a March 17 presentation to the Washington State Weed Coordinators' Association.

Speaking at the organization's annual conference in Chelan, Mr. Fann challenged those present to eradicate a class "A" weed in their jurisdiction.

Mr. Fann credited two county weed boards with stepping up to his challenge in the past, with positive results. He said that Kittitas County eradicated dyer's woad in response to an earlier challenge, and Yakima County eradicated featherhead knapweed.

**Kitsap County Has New Weed Assessment.** Kitsap County's Commissioners on April 12 approved a noxious weed assessment of \$1 per parcel plus eight cents per acre.

The assessment, which results from a proposal sent to the Commissioners by the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Board, is expected to generate \$115,000 in revenue to operate the County's noxious weed control program. That funding will begin to become available in 2005.

With the addition of Kitsap, 22 of Washington State's 39 counties now have noxious weed assessments.

**County Association Re-appoints Klaveano.** The Washington State Association of Counties has re-appointed Garfield County Commissioner Virgil "Butch" Klaveano Jr. to represent county interests on the State Weed Board.

Commissioner Klaveano has already completed one term on the Board. His second term will expire on February 12, 2007. The appointment was made under section 17.10.030 of the Revised Code of Washington.

**Mason County Weed Board Holds Meeting With New Members.** New members have been named to the Mason County Noxious Weed Control Board, and they held their first meeting March 23.

Gerald Lester, Mark Nelson and Clareda Deskins were named by the Mason County Commissioners to four-year terms. Willa Smith and Paul Hunter were given two-year terms. The group met at the Mason County Cooperative Extension office with Bob Simmons of WSU. It was Mr. Simmons who located a slate of potential board members and organized the re-energized weed board, at the request of the county commissioners.

Guests at the first meeting included Commissioner Herb Baze and Dana Coggon and Steve McGonigal of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board staff.

**Request from Peter Zika:** Peter is looking for sites of yellow nutsedge to sample please contact Dana for more information. 360-902-2082

**Check the Web for New news links they are updated every other week.**

**[http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed\\_info/New\\_Folder/news.htm](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_info/New_Folder/news.htm)**

## Legislative Session Produces Knotweed Funding, Pesticide License Changes

*By Steve McGonigal*

The Washington State Legislature adjourned its 2004 session on time March 11. Following is a digest of some results impacting noxious weed control.

**LIMITED AND RANCHER APPLICATORS** – The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board endorsed a plan to make the “pilot” limited and rancher private pesticide applicator license programs permanent, and expand them from four eastern counties to all of Eastern Washington. The House version of the bill, HB 2300, passed the legislature and was signed by Governor Gary Locke March 24. It will go into effect January 1, 2005, the day after the pilot programs expire.

**KNOTWEED CONTROL FUNDING** – The supplemental operating budget adopted by the Legislature for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004 provides \$500,000 to the Washington State Department of Agriculture to control Japanese knotweed in southwest Washington. The Governor signed the bill April 1.

Earlier in the session, House Bill 3089 was introduced. It would have appropriated one million dollars to the State Noxious Weed Control Board for a grant program for controlling Japanese knotweed. However, that bill did not pass. Plans to use the funding are still being made at this time. The fiscal year that begins July 1 will end on June 20, 2005, and the funding can be used only during that 12-month period.

**PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION** – Senate Bill 6707 would have created a public lands advisory commission, administered by the State Department of Agriculture. In total, state agencies estimated that implementing the bill would require 5.1 full-time-equivalent employees and \$800,000 per year. The Senate Natural Resources Committee passed the bill. However, discussion by Committee members before the vote made it clear that they did not intend the bill to become law without significant amendment. The bill died in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

**BALLAST WATER** – Senate Bill 6329 will become law. It changes the date by which the shipping industry has to treat ballast water, if it cannot exchange the water in the open ocean, from 2004 to 2007. Ballast water, held within ships to stabilize them, is considered a serious avenue for the introduction of invasive species to the state’s marine waters. The new law also requires owners of ocean-going vessels to report to the Department of Fish and Wildlife by July of 2006 on their plans to meet the 2007 date. And, it re-creates a “ballast water working group,” and adds a tribal representative and a shellfish industry representative to the shipping interests in the group.

**MERGING OF COUNTY FUNCTIONS** – House Joint Resolution 4215, which would have needed a supermajority of two-thirds in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, would have sent a constitutional amendment to state voters. If voters approved, it would have allowed two or more counties to consolidate or merge any statutory or constitutional function or structure for purposes of efficiency, cost savings and improved service. HJR 4215 was passed by the House Local Government Committee but died in the House Rules Committee.

**IRRIGATION PIPING FOR WEED CONTROL** – The state building construction account appropriates \$85,000 for the purchase of pipe to protect fish during Grant County Noxious Weed Control Board’s efforts to eradicate yellow nutsedge. The site of the infestation, which is crossed by an irrigation canal, was visited on the weed tour when the State Weed Board met in Grant County in July of last year.

**LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS** – Both Senate Bill 6145 and House Bill 2432 would have exempted lake management districts from the state’s Business and Occupations tax. Lake management districts are sometimes formed by property owners surrounding a lake for purposes of funding management functions, including noxious weed control. SB 6145 died in the Senate Ways and Means Committee and HB 2432 died in the House Finance Committee.





## State Group Seeks Progress During Weed Awareness Week

*By Steve McGonigal*



When the fifth annual National Invasive Weed Awareness Week was held in Washington D.C. February 23 through 27, 132 people from 33 states were there representing 65 different organizations.

Having quadrupled its participation in two years, Washington State and its county weed programs were represented by Laurel Shiner, Sheilah Kennedy, Rick Johnson and I. Having four people helped in several ways, as there is so much information and so many people to meet that no one person could absorb it all. This is also why there are multiple reports on the event in this quarter's newsletter. Finally, a group is perceived as more significant walking into a Congressional office appointment with four individuals, as opposed to one or two.

On several fronts, it seemed that the group from the Evergreen State contributed to a successful event and caused movement toward real results. My report will focus on those items.

We kept appointments at 10 of Washington State's 11 Congressional offices. A prominent issue we discussed was weed control funding, as represented by House Resolution 119 and S.144. These similar bills would authorize \$100 million dollars annually through states for local multi-jurisdictional weed control activities. Shortly after our visits, Congressmen Brian Baird and Adam Smith signed on as co-sponsors of House Resolution 119. Congressman George Nethercutt and Senator Maria Cantwell were already co-sponsors. Later, the House Resources Committee, Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands scheduled a hearing April 29 on S.144. These are among the reasons NIWAW V seemed to produce real results.

Congressman Brian Baird's office developed a particularly strong interest in Rick Johnson's descriptions of Brazilian elodea infestations in the Chehalis River. In fact, Rick had to miss one of our other appointments as he made a return visit to deliver the additional information that Congressman Baird's staff had requested.

Rick continued to respond to requests for information when he returned home, and Congressman Baird put in an appropriation request for \$75,300 for diver dredging of the Chehalis in Thurston and Lewis Counties as one of his highest priorities for the budget of the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. As the newsletter's deadline approached I was working with Senator Patty Murray's staff to generate support on the Senate side, and her legislative aides seemed genuinely interested in getting the appropriation approved. Hopefully, more results can be announced soon.

Sheilah Kennedy has been to more installments of NIWAW than anyone from Washington State. She is an officer of the North American Weed Management Association, which is one of the main organizers of NIWAW, and is scheduled to become NAWMA's president before NIWAW six occurs next February.

One of my focuses at NIWAW five was the Conservation Reserve Program, which is reported to be increasing noxious weed problems on idled farmland in several eastern Washington counties. Program managers are reported to not be enforcing contract provisions that require noxious weed control. I asked Dr. Lawrence Clark to address the problem during his speech for the chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Several things resulted. Dr. Clark said that field officers for the CRP program would meet the next week, and he would bring it up with them. Also, during the following coffee break, I was approached by Conservation Program Specialist James Michaels, who promised to work with us to correct any problems with the program in Washington State. Third, several NIWAW attendees later told me they have had problems with CRP, and shared ideas for solutions. Congressional offices were also alerted that we might need their help later, if problems cannot be resolved through agency channels. If contacts made in Washington DC can be used to resolve issues in some counties here, that alone will be worth my trip.

The closing "debriefing" at the end of NIWAW featured an evaluation of this year's program. The first improvement mentioned during the debriefing was how much the costumed weed characters had added to the value of the children's program for the hundreds of kids that attended. One of those characters, Lucy Loosestrife, was really Laurel Shiner. She helped all those future voters and property owners learn that a "pretty plant" could also be a "noxious weed."

Many leads gathered at NIWAW will be follow-up on in the coming weeks and months. If anyone needs them I can supply contact information for officials in the USDA agencies with noxious weed responsibilities. A list of those WSDA agencies is contained in Rick's article. I can also supply contacts for weed control officials in the Department of Interior's agencies, which include: Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Lands and Minerals Management.

This was the first year that the State Weed Board offered to pay half of the expenses for two weed coordinators to participate in NIWAW. I would appreciate any feedback that would help advise State Weed Board members on the value of continuing that program in the future.

The NIWAW schedule is full enough that there's no time for tourist activities. But the architecture and surroundings never let you forget you are in the nation's capitol, and there is the occasional celebrity sighting. On the last night this year, I went out to dinner with NIWAW attendees from Alaska, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming and Nebraska. There, in the restaurant, was Hillary Clinton, the former first lady, now a senator from New York.

# NATIONAL INVASIVE WEED AWARENESS WEEK REPORT

February 22 – 27, 2004

Laurel Shiner, Coordinator

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board

Sunday, Feb 22. Arrived at US Botanic Gardens to deliver mascot costume and help set up for Kid's Day event sponsored by NIWAW. Event activities included games, displays, face painting, crafts, weed dioramas, a "pretty plant" play for participants, and songs written and performed by Randy Westbrook. Participants had their pictures taken with the costumed characters, which included Sheriff Al (Tasker), Farmer Bob, Woody Weed (Phyllis Windle), Woodsy the Owl and Lucy Loosestrife (Laurel Shiner). Attendance was estimated at 300. After the Botanic Garden event, an orientation session was held at the hotel for first-time NIWAW attendees.

Monday, Feb. 23. Opening Session. Attendees represented many states and numbered around 150. Representatives from California, Ohio, Idaho, Montana, Michigan and Maryland presented information on some of their current education projects and new weed problems. A representative of the National Invasive Species Council ([invasivespecies.gov](http://invasivespecies.gov)) reviewed the material available on their website and reported that there are now 16 states with Invasive Species Councils.

Afternoon meetings were with staff from Representatives Rick Larsen, Doc Hastings, Adam Smith and Brian Baird's offices. Topics discussed included HR 119/S 144, CRP lands cooperation, the reauthorization of Title II funds coming up in 2005, the importance of CWMA's and coordinated efforts. Specific weeds discussed included Japanese knotweed, Brazilian elodea, wild four o'clock, and knapweeds. An attempt to meet with Jennifer Dunn was made, but staff was unavailable.

Tuesday, Feb 24. I attended morning session with various departments within USDA. The USFS Chief Dale Bosworth has declared that invasive species problems are a priority on USFS property – ranks second in the top four threats to our forests. Field data recorders are being developed for all field personnel and vehicle washing machines are also on the way. Afternoon meetings were with staff from Representative Jim McDermott, Norm Dicks and Senator Cantwell's offices. Topics discussed included HR 119/S 144, Reauthorization of Title II funds in 2005, importance of CWMA's, knotweeds and Brazilian elodea.

Wednesday, Feb 25. I attended morning meeting with Senator Patty Murray and group of constituents representing various issues. There was a brief discussion of invasive weeds and HR 119. A reporter for Gannett News Service representing the Olympia and Bellingham newspapers was in attendance, and time was spent after the meeting discussing weed issues with this reporter. Rick Johnson was notified that Representative Baird had signed on to HR 119 and had contacted Senator Hefley, the bill's sponsor. I assisted Rick in preparation of expanded information packet regarding Brazilian elodea, as requested by Representative Baird. Afternoon session included briefings with 10 non-governmental organizations and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Attended evening reception at US Botanic Garden.



*Lucy Loosestrife visits the White House*



*L to R: Steve McGonigal, Laurel Shiner, Sheilah Kennedy, Rick Johnson*

Thursday, Feb 26. I attended morning session with FICMNEW (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds). Committee members reviewed some of the educational efforts and the national Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) program developments. EDRR will soon have a home page with weed alerts, reporting systems, Rapid Assessment Guidelines, online database, a training curriculum and video, and a forecasting methods/service for invasive weeds. Afternoon appointments were with staff from Representative George Nethercutt and Jay Inslee's offices. Topics discussed were HR 119/S 144, reauthorization of Title II funds, CWMA's, knotweed and purple loosestrife.

# REPORT TO THE WSNWCB

By Rick Johnson  
Thurston County NWCB

The National Invasive Weeds Awareness week included over 130 participants the Week of February 23 through 27<sup>th</sup> 2004, in Washington D.C.

A major priority of the week was to increase awareness and support for legislation introduced in the past two sessions of congress.

Senate Bill 144 and House of Representatives Bill 119 would provide funds to states for private and public land managers who are working together on cooperative projects. One hundred million dollars has been suggested for this new program.

State Weed Board Executive Secretary, Steve McGonigal brought these bills to each of our elected officials attention and encouraged their support. Steve also supported Title II funding through the forest service that has benefited several local programs on Forest Service lands in Washington.

As a county Coordinator I am limited in the ability to lobby for legislation, however, according to our county policy, I can address service levels and current local projects. I was able to fully participate at the National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week by sharing with our elected officials the Thurston County weed program as well as other local programs I have knowledge of in Western Washington.

The week began with displays and presentations at the National Botanical Gardens, Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Displays representing most of the federal agencies were located at the entrance to the gardens. This was very effective as public that visited the gardens during the entire week had to pass by the noxious weeds displays prior to entrance to the rest of the gardens. Comments made by other citizens from Washington State were positive, which leads me to believe the awareness of weed issues was raised by the events and displays located at the gardens throughout the entire week. One final thought about the gardens; Weed Coordinator Laurel Baldwin should be given an award for the most creative weed education tool ever produced, as *Lucy Loosestrife* was a big hit at the garden.

The evening of February 22 featured an introductory presentation that was very valuable for those of us who have not had a lot of experience talking to elected officials. Items covered included protocol and appropriate communications when addressing public officials and their staff. Appointments with all of the State of Washington delegation were made prior to departure to Washington D.C.

Each day started with meetings from federal agencies about their invasive plant species programs. I was not able to attend all the meetings as conflicts arose with meetings planned and requests for project information from an elected official.

The Following are highlights of the meetings I attended:

Nearly one billion federal dollars are spent for invasive plant programs each year. This includes all federal agencies.

The estimated cost to the United States from invasive plant species is well over 100 billion per year.

EPA is working on a research project that would predict invasiveness.

16 states have formed invasive species councils.

USDA -Invasive plant programs exist in the following divisions: Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, Economic Research Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

USDA's mission is "to exclude, detect, and eradicate invasive plant species". There are approximately 100 million acres of infestations of invasive species in the United States, about the size of the state of Maryland. The rate of spread was estimated at a 14% increase each year.

USDA Forest Service Chief has declared a war on process. A result of this declaration is an effort to shorten the NEPA process with a categorical exclusion for weeds. There is currently a draft of this exclusion but none was provided at the meeting. The Chief has also declared invasive plants; "one of the highest threats to National Forests".

Other tidbits from the Forest Service: Forty cents of every \$1.00 in the forest service weed budget is spent for process and analysis; Forest Service has 150,000 acres planned for treatment this year; field data recorders that interface with data management systems are now in use and part of the goal to inventory all lands within the next 2 years; the use of state of art vehicle washing machines is in place; effort for invasive species is now coordinated and implemented through all the various agencies; fire fighting has taken some of the weed money- Fighting fires can add up to \$15 million per day in a bad year.

APHIS is working on an economic analysis of invasive species. The project costs are \$2,000,000/year for the study. The project started in 2003, no results are available currently. Go to [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov), to find specifics on this research.

Detecting Internet web sites that sell noxious weeds is a goal at USDA.

Conservation has 17 billion in restoration funds through the farm bill, which can include invasive plants <http://plants.usda.gov>.

EPA has a one million dollar budget for invasive plant species program. Their total budget is 7 billion.

Port of entry inspections have been transferred to the department of homeland security. 500 new inspectors are being hired. All 18,000 immigration and port inspectors are being trained in invasive species.

Bonnie Harper Lore of USDOT is working on a "weeds across borders", program with Mexico and Canada. USDOT has funded noxious weed mapping in the state of Utah and New York. DOT is developing a master list of noxious weeds throughout the country.

It may be worth Coordinators time to check out the following web sites:

[http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw\\_index.htm](http://www.nawma.org/niwaw/niwaw_index.htm).

<http://www.nawma.org/index.html>

[http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti\\_projects.htm](http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti_projects.htm)

<http://www.invasivespecies.gov/>

Links: Risk assessment; USGS invasive species; Plants database; Guide to listing and delisting species; Pest risk assessment; Off shore pest assessment; Global pest and disease database-has a goal of 8-10,000 species to reference.

These are just a few of the notes I took while attending meetings at the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week meetings.

**Sheilah Kennedy Also Attended the Invasive Weeds Awareness Week and provided the State Weed Board with an in-depth report. To obtain copies of that report please contact Sheilah (509-422-7165) or Dana (360-902-2082) or follow this link: [Sheilah's D.C. Report](#)**

#### **Highlights from Sheilah's report:**

\*National Mapping Standards

\*Certified Weed Free Forage program

\*Weeds Across Borders Conference  
June 2-4, 2004

**\*Press Release**

\*Union of Concerned Scientists to assist in scientific based decision making in weed research

\*State noxious weed reports

\*APHIS & new biological agents.

\* Healthy forest initiative

\*New invader, early warning and rapid response

\*Accounts of each meeting with congressional representatives.

**\*AND MUCH MORE!!**